



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 14 March 2008

Current Nationwide



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- According to the NBC News, the Department of Homeland Security and the FBI issued a joint bulletin Wednesday addressing an uncorroborated threat to Wall Street, a senior Homeland Security official confirmed. The intelligence was characterized as “fragmented” pieces from various undisclosed sources. (See item [13](#))
- The Associated Press reports Southwest Airlines Co. canceled flights Wednesday and temporarily grounded 43 planes to examine if they were sound enough to carry passengers, the latest twist in the low-cost carrier’s saga of missed safety inspections and civil penalties. The groundings affected about 8 percent of Southwest’s fleet, and came as the airline faces a \$10.2 million civil penalty for continuing to fly nearly 50 planes that had not been inspected for cracks in their fuselages. (See item [17](#))

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Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: ELEVATED, Cyber: ELEVATED

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *March 13, Hess Corporation* – (National) **Crude stocks rise.** Crude oil stocks across the whole of the U.S. have risen in the last week, the latest figures from the Energy Information Administration have shown. According to the official statistics, there were 311.6 million barrels of crude available in the U.S. as of March 7. This is an increase of more than six million barrels over the figure for the previous week, but remains down on

the same time one year ago. On the east coast, however, there was a fall in supply levels from the previous week. There was a rise in U.S. oil production levels, with some 5.1 million barrels being produced each day, up from 5.05 million in the previous week. Imports of crude also increased during the week, with an average of 10.548 million barrels per day (bpd) being shipped into the country. Refinery inputs, however, fell during the week from 14.868 million bpd to 14.622 million bpd. Despite the rises in stocks, oil prices have continued to remain strong, with crude futures standing \$109.74 Thursday morning on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

Source: <http://www.hessenergy.com/common/NewsItem.aspx?ArticleId=18507773>

2. *March 12, Reuters* – (Louisiana) **U.S. Gulf of Mexico gas explosion.** A natural gas explosion injured six crew members of a pipeline maintenance vessel off the coast of Louisiana and left one person missing, the U.S. Coast Guard said on Wednesday. The explosion occurred late Tuesday while the vessel was clearing the gas from a shut section of a pipeline owned by ANR Pipeline Co. into a tank towed behind the vessel. Coast Guard investigators checked the pipeline and wellhead for damage at the location of the explosion 15 miles off the coast of Marsh Island, Louisiana. ANR's parent company, TransCanada Corp., said the blast did not affect its pipeline system or supplies of natural gas to customers. El Paso Corp.'s Tennessee natural gas pipeline, however, said the explosion led it to declare force majeure – meaning it cannot meet contractual supply obligations – on its pipeline south of Marsh Island. The company said it expected the force majeure to continue for at least another day while it checks the pipeline for damage. The Coast Guard has not determined whether a problem in the towed tank or the pipeline triggered the explosion.

Source: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/feedarticle?id=7379699>

3. *March 12, Platts* – (National) **Groups say U.S. climate bill could boost gas demand 20 percent in decade.** U.S. natural gas consumption could jump by as much as 20 percent over the next ten years if climate change legislation under consideration in Congress becomes law, several gas trade groups said on Tuesday. “We want members of Congress to understand that their actions will have serious consequences for America’s natural gas customers,” said the president of the American Gas Association, who is also a member of the Natural Gas Council (NGC). “Meeting the nation’s clean air goals requires natural gas and lots of it. While the natural gas industry whole-heartedly supports increased energy efficiency, conservation, and use of renewable fuels, U.S. energy demands cannot be met by these measures alone.” The council’s findings contradict an earlier analysis by the U.S. Energy Information Agency, which indicated that gas use would fall if a CO2 emissions reduction bill (S. 280) becomes law.

Source:

<http://www.platts.com/Natural%20Gas/News/8587805.xml?sub=Natural%20Gas&p=Natural%20Gas/News&?undefined&undefined>

4. *March 12, Platts* – (National) **Rail, barge improvements could cut coal supply drain.** The recent spike in coal exports is draining supply for U.S. utilities, but improved railroad and barge capacity will make it easier to seek out new coal supplies, said Southern Company’s vice president of fuel services at the American Coal Council’s

Spring Coal Forum in Miami. Railroads “have significant influence on the energy industry,” and rail rates may influence siting of new coal-fired plants and even force some old plants into early retirement. Delivery problems may arise when rails reach maximum capacity, especially in the Powder River Basin. “Hopefully, [improved railroads and barge lines] will have the capacity to accommodate major shifts in basins.” He said he is encouraged by recent developments at the U.S. Surface Transportation Board, which is seeking to engage utilities, producers, and railroads about service and capacity issues. In the meantime, the export spike also is causing more volatility in the coal markets. High ocean freight rates are limiting import options for U.S. utilities, while growing exports “significantly reduced availability of coal” in the country. “The changes [in the market] we are seeing are probably not a short-term phenomenon, but perhaps a major structural change.” Utilities are developing plans to diversify coal sources as a way of reducing the impact of high prices. One of their options is increasing the intake of lower-Btu western coals.

Source:

<http://www.platts.com/Coal/News/8587803.xml?sub=Coal&p=Coal/News&?undefined&undefined>

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Chemical Industry Sector

5. *March 12, Associated Press* – (Maine) **Judge seeks more studies on how to deal with mercury pollution.** A federal judge has called for more studies on how best to deal with mercury pollution in the lower Penobscot River caused by the former HoltraChem chemical manufacturing plant in Orrington, Maine. In a ruling last Friday, a Senior U.S. District Judge concurred with a 117-page report filed in January that concluded that mercury downriver from the plant site poses substantial risks to people and wildlife. She also directed a court-appointed research team to conduct additional studies to determine if it is better to attempt to remove the mercury or to leave it alone and let nature take its course. The chemical plant was last owned by HoltraChem, which ran it from 1993 until the company went out of business in 2000. Mallinckrodt Inc., which is based in St. Louis and owned the facility from 1967 to 1982, has been held liable for the pollution because it is the only former owner still in business. Mallinckrodt officials said Tuesday that the company has already spent more than \$30 million to clean up the site and has worked cooperatively with state and federal environmental agencies on that ongoing project.

Source:

http://www.boston.com/news/local/maine/articles/2008/03/12/judge_seeks_more_studies_on_how_to_deal_with_mercury_pollution/

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

6. *March 13, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency* – (Pennsylvania) **EPA orders PA company to clean up hazardous materials from Marietta warehouses.** The U.S.

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has ordered Strube Inc. to remove all radioactive materials from two adjacent warehouses in Marietta, Pennsylvania, where the company stores military aircraft instruments and components, including items that contain radium and mercury. The Marietta property is one of seven locations in Lancaster County operated by Strube that contain dials and instruments with radium, mercury, and other hazardous substances. EPA is handling the cleanup at the six other locations and will oversee Strube's cleanup of the Marietta warehouses. The order also allows Strube to continue to operate its business of selling aircraft parts as long as all items are screened for radiological contamination before they are removed from any of the warehouses and supplied to customers. The main concern the sites pose is the potential threat of fire. A fire may result in radium-contaminated smoke and ash being released into the surrounding environment. Radiation survey and testing performed to date indicate that the general public is not currently exposed to harmful levels of radiation from these warehouses.

Source:

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/0/3418a57932c3c0638525740b0042b68c?OpenDocument>

7. *March 13, Rocky Mountain News* – (Colorado) **Uranium firm fined in solvent spill that killed 40 birds.** A U.S. magistrate fined a Denver-based uranium processing company \$15,000 Wednesday and ordered the firm to pay \$15,000 of restitution for a solvent spill that caused the deaths of 40 geese and ducks. The maximum fine was imposed on Cotter Corporation, which owned the uranium processing mill in Canon City, Colorado, where the spill occurred October 21, 2005. About 4,500 gallons of organic solvent escaped from the processing facility and flowed into a catchment pond. Cotter employees removed the solvent within a few days, but by then the migratory birds had come into contact with the spill. The fine and restitution were part of a plea agreement after the company entered a guilty plea to a misdemeanor violation of the U.S. Migratory Bird Treaty Act. The law prohibits the killing of several hundred species of birds without a prior license or permit. In addition to the fine and restitution, the company was sentenced to 12 months of probation and was ordered to prepare and implement an environmental-compliance plan. The plan is to be aimed at preventing future spills and speeding the cleanup if spills do occur.

Source: <http://www.rockymountainnews.com/news/2008/mar/13/uranium-firm-fined-in-solvent-spill-that-killed/>

8. *March 13, Today's Sunbeam* – (New Jersey) **Salem 2 reactor begins outage.** The Salem 2 nuclear reactor has been taken off line for a rescheduled refueling outage that will also see workers replace all four of the plant's massive steam generators with new generators made by French manufacturer Areva. The steam generator replacement is costing the utility about \$260 million, according to the spokesman for the plant's operator PSEG Nuclear. During the outage, PSEG Nuclear employees and outside contractors will replace one third of the reactor's fuel rods and perform more than 20,000 other tasks related to testing and plant maintenance. The spokesman could not estimate when Salem 2 would be returned to service.

Source: <http://www.nj.com/news/sunbeam/index.ssf?/base/news->

9. *March 12, Engineer Live* – (Alabama) **Solving the lightning problem.** A decade ago, lightning strikes to Browns Ferry Nuclear plant's off-gas stack were hampering reliability. "The off-gas stack was originally protected by Franklin rods, but equipment on the stack and around its base (was) routinely damaged during lightning storms," says a Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) manager with oversight of electromagnetic interference and instrumentation. To improve reliability and reduce downtime, Browns Ferry turned to Lightning Eliminators & Consultants, Inc.'s Dissipation Array System (DAS), a charge transfer device that prevents direct strikes by reducing the local electrical field to below lightning-collection potential. "The result has been no known lightning strikes to the off-gas stack in almost ten years," says the manager. "Following DAS implementation, we found an 80 percent reduction in lightning strikes within 500 meters of the off-gas stack." Because of the DAS prevention system's success in protecting the off-gas stack from lightning strikes, Browns Ferry is looking into extending the area of protection to a nearby intake pumping station, which recently sustained motor damage due to lightning.

Source: <http://www.engineerlive.com/features/20047/solving-the-lightning-problem.shtml>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

10. *March 13, Associated Press* – (National) **U.S. launches secret satellite.** An Atlas 5 rocket carrying a secret U.S. satellite lifted off before dawn Thursday, officials said. The 191-foot-tall booster blasted off from Central Coast air base at 3:02 a.m. A spokesman for United Launch Alliance, which made the rocket, could not confirm whether the satellite had successfully reached orbit. The Atlas 5 carried a classified satellite for the National Reconnaissance Office. The rocket is designed to reduce costs and provide reliable access to space for heavier military payloads. The launch was delayed for two weeks as a precaution against possible space debris from a failed U.S. spy satellite that was blown up by a missile launched from a Navy ship. The United Launch Alliance is a joint venture by Lockheed Martin Corp. and Boeing Co.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2008/TECH/space/03/13/satellite.launch.ap/index.html>

11. *March 13, Strategy Page* – (National) **Silicon spies.** In the U.S., the Federal Bureau of Investigation has a new problem on their hands: the increasing sale of counterfeit computer equipment to military organizations. It is not the selling of cheap knock offs at premium prices that worries the feds, but the espionage potential of this sort of thing. The most vulnerable equipment is network cards. Crooks buy cheap, generic ones from China, then attach authentic looking stickers to make it appear like a top-of-the line item from an American supplier. The intel angle enters the equation when you realize that these cards could have special versions of chips that are hard wired to either allow foreign hackers access to U.S. networks, or "call home" to enable the foreign cyber warriors to know where their fake cards have ended up. There have been plenty of counterfeit cards uncovered, but none yet with the spy chips installed. U.S. Cyber War

units have apparently already created such spy chips, as these can be installed in legit equipment as well. All one has to do is get the target country to accept the gear and install it. The growing number of counterfeit electronics being peddled to the U.S. military, and energetic FBI efforts to catch the counterfeiters, has made it more difficult to keep this form of espionage completely under wraps.

Source: <http://www.strategypage.com/htm/htintel/articles/20080313.aspx>

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Banking and Finance Sector

12. *March 13, All Headline News* – (Massachusetts) **Harvard alerts 10,000 applicants of data breach.** Harvard University is notifying some 10,000 students who had applied to the school that their Social Security numbers and other personal data may have been accessed by hackers. Although detected last month, Harvard officials Thursday began alerting applicants to the university's Graduate School of Arts and Sciences. More than 6,000 applicant Social Security numbers and 500 school IDs were exposed, according to the campus newspaper, the Harvard Crimson. Harvard officials said the alert was sounded after an investigation into the January incident was found to be wider than initially thought. Some of the data was made available on "The Pirate Bay," a popular peer-to-peer file-sharing site. Along with notifying individuals, the Ivy League school is offering free identity theft protection, as well as credit monitoring
Source: <http://www.allheadlinenews.com/articles/7010320564>
13. *March 12, NBC News* – (New York) **FBI reports possible threat to Wall Street.** The Department of Homeland Security and the FBI issued a joint bulletin Wednesday addressing an uncorroborated threat to Wall Street, a senior Homeland Security official confirmed. The intelligence was characterized as "fragmented" pieces from various undisclosed sources. The official told NBC News that the threat lacked specifics on timing, exact location or who was planning an attack. The bulletin simply referred to "a desire to attack Wall Street in the month of March" and made reference to the "international stock exchange." Homeland Security said there was no reason to believe an attack is imminent and that it was not giving much credibility, if any, to the threat. Officials said it was routine sharing of information between law enforcement partners.
Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/23599768/>
14. *March 12, Bend Weekly* – (Oregon) **Police warn of text message banking scam.** Bend, Oregon, police are warning citizens of a new text message scam sent via residents' cell phones that are a "phishing" attempt to steal credit card and pin numbers belonging to Bank of the Cascade account holders. The messages read, "Your Bank of the Cascades Account has been closed due to unusual activity. Call us at 818-237-5717." When the phone number was called, an automated answering service requests that you enter the credit card and pin numbers to "reactivate" your account, a police official explained. A call to the number this morning returned a recorded message saying the number is no longer in service. Police investigators confirmed the message is a scam and not associated with the bank, and information from the bank has not been compromised, the official said. The messages were sent to a list of cell phone numbers from Central

Oregon account holders, and were also sent to persons who have no connection with that particular bank. The cell phone number list came from an unknown source, the sergeant said. “Do not enter your personal information!” he warned, adding that banks and financial institutions do not generally solicit information via text message.

Source: <http://www.bendweekly.com/Local-News/14571.html>

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Transportation Sector

15. *March 13, Flight Global* – (National) **FAA issues icing constraints for Saab 340 operators.** Motivated by a loss of control incident with an American Eagle Saab 340B in 2006, the Federal Aviation Administration has issued a final airworthiness directive requiring US operators to modify how pilots fly in icing conditions. According to a National Transportation Safety Board interim factual summary of the January 2006 incident, the aircraft rolled and nearly inverted at one point during a 50s loss-of-control event. No one was injured as a result of the incident and the aircraft did not sustain “substantial” damage, according to the NTSB. Investigators determined that pilots had allowed the aircraft to slow to an inadequate airspeed for icing conditions as it climbed through 11,500ft (3,500m) in prime icing on departure. The AD includes aircraft flight manual changes that involve minimum airspeeds and autopilot usage in icing conditions that must be made by 26 April.
Source: <http://www.flightglobal.com/articles/2008/03/13/222176/faa-issues-icing-constraints-for-saab-340-operators.html>
16. *March 13, BBC* – (International) **Man arrested over Heathrow alert.** A major security alert is under way at Heathrow, England, airport after a man with a rucksack scaled the perimeter fence and ran into the path of an aircraft. The incident happened just after 1430 GMT on Heathrow’s north runway. A BBC reporter said eyewitnesses saw armed police officers surround the man and sniffer dogs sent in to check the rucksack. The man is understood to have been taken into custody. No-one has been hurt. Up to 20 vehicles were reported to have been sent to the scene. The runway has been closed.
Source: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/london/7294745.stm>
17. *March 12, Associated Press* – (National) **Southwest grounds dozens of jets.** Southwest Airlines Co. canceled flights Wednesday and temporarily grounded 43 planes to examine if they were sound enough to carry passengers, the latest twist in the low-cost carrier’s saga of missed safety inspections and civil penalties. The groundings affected about 8 percent of Southwest’s fleet, and came as the airline faces a \$10.2 million civil penalty for continuing to fly nearly 50 planes that had not been inspected for cracks in their fuselages. Since the Federal Aviation Administration announced the penalty last week, Southwest has endured a steady drip of bad publicity, which is unusual for the nation’s most consistently profitable carrier and one that has never had an accident that killed passengers or crew members. Beyond Wednesday’s canceled flights — airline officials said they expected to operate a normal schedule on Thursday — it was unclear what impact the unfolding events might have on Southwest’s ticket sales and reputation. The company said it had 520 Boeing 737 jets at the end of last year. Nearly 200 of them

are older models, the Boeing 737-300, that were supposed to undergo extra inspections for cracks in the fuselage.

Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20080312/ap_on_bi_ge/faa_southwest_airlines

18. *March 12, AVweb* – (National) **FAA issues emergency ADs for Thielert, Precision Airmotive.** The Federal Aviation Administration issued Tuesday two emergency airworthiness directives affecting general aviation aircraft. The first, (AD 2008-06-52), applies to Thielert Aircraft Engines GmbH (TAE) model TAE 125-02-99 engines with a serial number from 02-02-1500 through 02-02-2279. These engines are installed on some Cessna 172 and (Reims-built) F172 series (STC No. SA01303WI) airplanes and Diamond DA42 airplanes. The FAA says it received reports of in-flight engine shutdown incidents that were found to be the result of a cracked high-pressure fuel line between the high-pressure pump and fuel rail. These cracks were caused by excessive vibration of the fuel line and, if not corrected, could result in an in-flight engine shutdown or engine fire. The second AD (2008-06-51) addresses a problem with certain Precision Airmotive LLC RSA-5 and RSA-10 series fuel injection servos.

Source:

http://www.avweb.com/avwebflash/news/FAAIssuesEmergencyADSForThielertPrecisionAirmotive_197366-1.html

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Postal and Shipping Sector

19. *March 13, Hartford Courant* – (Connecticut) **Capitol reacts to mail scare.** Six employees of the governor's office were decontaminated Wednesday after one of them opened an envelope at the state Capitol and immediately reacted with itching of his eyes and face, police said. Two employees, including the man who opened the envelope, were taken to a hospital for evaluation. The man walked out of the Capitol at 4:38 p.m. wearing a full-length, all-white "moon suit" that covered his head and feet. He stepped into an ambulance and was driven away. The second employee, a woman, was brought to the hospital suffering from stress, police said. The entire suite of fourth-floor staff offices will remain closed for about 48 hours as the incident is investigated and the envelope is tested by the state Department of Public Health, the Capitol police chief said. This area is separate from the second-floor office where the governor works.

Source: <http://www.courant.com/news/local/hc-letter0313.artmar13,0,3969033.story>

20. *March 12, WJRT 12 Flint* – (Michigan) **White substance found in envelope sent to bank.** A white substance was discovered in an envelope at around 10 a.m. Wednesday at the Citizens Bank building in downtown Flint, Michigan. About 800 people were inside of the bank at the time. Many of them were not allowed to leave the building, and no one was allowed inside. Authorities say a female teller opened the envelope, which was only addressed to Citizens Bank. That teller then alerted her supervisor about the substance inside. The U.S. Postal Service sent out investigators who took the envelope to the basement and in about a half hour determined the white substance inside was cornstarch.

Source: <http://abclocal.go.com/wjrt/story?section=news/local&id=6015868>

Agriculture and Food Sector

21. *March 13, Reuters* – (International) **Farm research network braces for less funds from U.S.** A leading agricultural research network is bracing itself for a sharp cut in funding from its top donor, the U.S., even as bioenergy, population growth, and climate change pose pivotal challenges for global food production. The U.S. Agency for International Development has warned the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), which includes 15 research centers around the world, that it expects to cut the network's core funding by 75 percent this year, the network's director said on Wednesday. "The United States has been playing such an important role that a retreat, a withdrawal in these areas will be devastating," CGIAR's director said. U.S. support, including core and project funding, was around \$56 million in 2007, about 12 percent of overall funding, CGIAR reported. In 2006, it was \$60.7 million. He added that a reduction of such scale would endanger cutting-edge research to combat major crop scourges like wheat rust, to develop vitamin-enhanced rice or potatoes, or to safeguard seeds and plant samples in gene banks.

Source:

http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20080313/us_nm/usa_agriculture_research_dc;_ylt=Araan.fXpjeGyGO7o0ixWXkWIr0F

22. *March 13, Mid-South Farmer* – (International) **USDA creates new office for small meat plants.** The rules and regulations concerning food safety are complex and time consuming to implement even for large meat packing plants. For smaller plants, the task of putting together the required food safety plan is even more daunting. The Undersecretary of Food Safety says the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) needs to work with these small plants to ensure food safety, because the weakest link can give the entire industry a black eye. To that end, he announced a new office within FSIS, called the Office of Outreach, Employee Education, and Training. "This office will have that dedicated staffing and dedicated resources to provide a consistent delivery of key agency outreach and training sessions on current and future food safety and food defense issues, including humane handling," he said. More than 5000 meat packing plants fall into the small or very small category. This office will provide a one-stop place for information and help with complying with food safety regulations.

Source: <http://midsouthfarmer.com/index.aspx?ascxid=fpStory&fpsid=32692&fpstid=1>

23. *March 13, Washington Post* – (National) **Farm report criticizes FDA over spinach packers.** Since 2001, nearly half of all federal inspections of facilities that package fresh spinach revealed serious sanitary problems, but the Food and Drug Administration did not take "meaningful" enforcement action, a House committee report released yesterday found. The most common problems uncovered by FDA inspections of 67 facilities included inadequate restroom sanitation, litter piles, and indoor condensation posing a risk of food contamination by microorganisms. Inspectors also found buildings vulnerable to rodent infestation and workers with uncovered hair and poor hygiene. Twenty serious outbreaks of E. coli have been traced to fresh lettuce or spinach since

1995. One of the most troublesome was a 2006 outbreak in bagged spinach processed by California-based Natural Selection Foods that sickened more than 200 people and was linked to three deaths. The FDA acknowledged gaps in its food safety efforts after that episode. But the report by the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee says the problems were worse: It showed that spinach facilities were inspected about once every 2.4 years despite federal guidelines that say most should have been visited at least annually. The FDA did not refer any of the problem facilities to its internal enforcement authorities, nor did the agency send warning letters or seek injunctions. It did refer one inspection to state authorities, the report said.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/03/12/AR2008031203977.html>

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Water Sector

24. *March 13, Atlanta Journal-Constitution* – (Georgia) **As Fannin residents run dry, bottled water flows out.** Five spring water bottlers or suppliers have set up shop in Fannin County near the Tennessee border, perhaps more than in any other Georgia county. The companies pay nothing for the millions of gallons they draw and sell. As the state fell deeper into drought last year, Fannin residents began asking whether the industry was partly at fault for their dry plumbing. They found no easy answer. Although scientists say some spring water companies do diminish groundwater, only a detailed study would show whether they were sucking up the supply for nearby homes. The companies do not draw enough to need permits that would subject them to greater state control. As a result, no one knows how much water they take from springs all together. Skirmishes in states such as Michigan, Florida, Maine, and California have pitted residents and environmentalists against water companies over withdrawals from springs, rivers, and aquifers. Critics say bottlers are siphoning off a limited natural resource. Bottlers counter they are a relatively small user, and fresh-tasting drinking water is a convenient, healthy product. Some states are setting more rules for bottlers. Michigan, for instance, lowered the volume bottlers can withdraw before needing a state permit and required them to solicit public comments on their plans.

Source:

http://www.ajc.com/metro/content/metro/stories/2008/03/12/bottledwater_0313.html

25. *March 12, South Florida Sun-Sentinel* – (Florida) **Rains helped, but south Florida's water emergency still a concern.** A rainy start to 2008 helped south Florida avoid a water "crisis," but has not ended the water supply emergency, the region's top water manager said this morning. Once-a-week watering limits will remain in place until south Florida's regional water supply rebounds from the effects of a 21-inch rain deficit since November 2005, said the executive director of the South Florida Water Management District. February and March rains have helped lawns, raised canals, and boosted coastal drinking water supplies. February's 2.99-inch rain average for the region was almost three quarters of an inch above normal. That was the first above-average rainfall district-wide since October, according to the agency. However, the regional water supply remains at risk after the two driest back-to-back years on record, according to the

district. And looking at rainfall totals for Florida's dry season, which started in November, the region received just 65 percent of its normal rainfall through February. District forecasts call for the trend to continue.

Source: <http://www.sun-sentinel.com/news/local/southflorida/sfl-312drought,0,3703796.story>

26. *March 12, Worcester Telegram & Gazette* – (Massachusetts) **In Mass., mercury, but not pharmaceuticals, focus of health officials.** Fish have tested positive in some parts of the U.S. for myriad traces of pharmaceuticals, but this state is not testing its rivers and streams, and according to state fisheries and wildlife officials, there are more important issues on the radar. The director of fisheries programs for the state Division of Fisheries & Wildlife said the state has not tested any major rivers or streams for medications that have shown up in rivers in other states. He said the state's fisheries biologists have been aware of the testing for pharmaceuticals in rivers across the country for at least the past five years, but said historically, mercury and PCBs in waterways have been of primary concern to fisheries' biologists. Throughout the Northeast, the major concern is habitat, habitat protection, the connection of watersheds, and the "impact of global climate change on aquatic resources."

Source: <http://www.telegram.com/article/20080312/NEWS/803120696/1116>

27. *March 12, Atlanta Journal-Constitution* – (Georgia) **Shut-off valve activated on a bill that might have created water rival for Atlanta.** Shortly before the Georgia House adjourned at 10:30 p.m. or so on Tuesday, a bill to make it easier for local governments to build water and sewer systems was yanked from the floor, without a vote. Atlanta had lobbied heavily against the measure, charging that H.B. 1145 was designed to rob the city of revenue generated by its water system, which serves north Fulton County. Atlanta officials said the bill jeopardized the city's \$3 billion, court-mandated plan to repair its aging sewer system.

Source: http://www.ajc.com/metro/content/shared-blogs/ajc/politicalinsider/entries/2008/03/12/shutoff_valve_activated_on_a_b.html

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

28. *March 12, Associated Press* – (Nevada) **State health official says Nevada 'can do better'.** Nevada's top health administrator says the state "can do better" when it comes to preventing the spread of infectious disease in Nevada clinics. He told reporters on Wednesday that his agency will review its health inspection policies after it completes a full survey of Nevada's 50 outpatient surgery centers. The statewide survey was triggered by the largest hepatitis C scare in U.S. history. Health officials say at least six people contracted the blood-borne virus and another 40,000 were exposed through unsafe injection practices at a Las Vegas clinic. The Endoscopy Center of Southern Nevada had not received a full inspection by the state surveyors since 2001, despite a policy calling for inspections every three years. State officials are roughly midway through the process and four additional clinics have been cited for unsafe procedures. Inspectors from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on Wednesday began

assisting the state with the survey.

Source: <http://www.ktnv.com/Global/story.asp?S=8007241>

29. *March 12, KIDK 3 Idaho Falls* – (Idaho) **Bioterrorism training.** Health experts in the South Valley are undergoing training at Idaho State University (ISU) to deal with the emotional trauma caused by a bioterrorist attack. It is part of ISU's Bioterrorism Awareness and Preparedness Project. The speaker giving the presentation is in Maryland, and the Idaho groups, along with other groups in the state as well as people in Washington and Oregon, listen in. ISU's Bioterrorism training will continue next Wednesday. Health experts will be discussing how to prepare private practices to handle an emergency situation.

Source: <http://www.kidk.com/news/local/16624166.html>

Government Facilities Sector

30. *March 13, Washington Post* – (District of Columbia) **Small plane enters restricted space.** Yesterday, a Cessna 177 single-engine plane entered the restricted zone about 30 miles north of Washington at 12:12 p.m., according to the Federal Aviation Administration, before being intercepted without incident, officials said. At one point, it was heading toward the Capitol. The incursion, the second in a week, prompted the Capitol to briefly raise its threat level to orange, the second-highest on a five-color scale. Officials did not order an evacuation, but a small exodus began anyway, with congressional staffers and visitors streaming out of the building on their own. Officials said they will refine the complex's policies to avoid such confusion in the future. The Capitol Police have been criticized at times in the past for evacuations that turned chaotic. Law enforcement agencies declined to identify the pilot involved in yesterday's incident until their investigation is complete. He flew out of an airport in Carroll County, Maryland, they said.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/03/12/AR2008031202212.html>

31. *March 12, Associated Press* – (District of Columbia) **War protesters arrested in Senate.** U.S. Capitol Police arrested ten war protesters who began shouting in the Senate gallery Wednesday. The protesters were quickly hustled into a hallway and out of the view of reporters. They had chanted, "The war is immoral! Stop funding the war!" – as police officers grabbed them and physically removed them from a visitors' gallery overlooking the Senate floor. The demonstrators wore gauze shrouds over their heads and black shirts that read, "We will not be silent." One member said they represented the "National Campaign for Nonviolent Resistance."

Source: http://www.breitbart.com/article.php?id=D8VC2OS81&show_article=1

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Emergency Services Sector

32. *March 12, WPBN 7&4 Traverse City* – (Michigan) **Area emergency responders get special training.** Emergency responders from Cheboygan Memorial Hospital recently returned home after undergoing homeland security training in Alabama. The course took place at the center for domestic preparedness and is the only federally chartered weapons of mass destruction training facility in the nation. The five emergency responders from Cheboygan County were specially selected from among the nation's 11 million emergency responders, and learned what to do in case a local or national emergency ever arises.
Source: http://www.tv7-4.com/news/news_story.aspx?id=107316

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Information Technology

33. *March 13, New York Times* – (National) **Video road hogs stir fear of internet traffic jam.** According to some industry groups, analysts, and researchers, the threat of surging growth in the amount of data on the internet stems mainly from the increasing visual richness of online communications and entertainment — video clips and movies, social networks and multiplayer games. Moving images require far more bandwidth than text and audio files. Last year, by one estimate, the video site YouTube, owned by Google, consumed as much bandwidth as the entire Internet did in 2000. In a widely cited report published last November, a research firm projected that user demand for the Internet could outpace network capacity by 2011. The title of a debate scheduled next month at a technology conference in Boston sums up the angst: “The End of the Internet?” But the Internet traffic surge represents more a looming challenge than an impending catastrophe. Even those most concerned are not predicting a lights-out Internet crash. An individual user, they say, would experience Internet clogging in the form of sluggish download speeds and frustration with data-heavy services that become much less useful or enjoyable. Some researchers are less worried — at least in the short term. A professor at the University of Minnesota, estimates that digital traffic on the global network is growing about 50 percent a year, in line with a recent analysis by Cisco Systems, the big network equipment maker. That sounds like a daunting rate of growth. Yet the technology for handling Internet traffic is advancing at an impressive pace as well. The router computers for relaying data get faster, fiber optic transmission gets better, and software for juggling data packets gets smarter. “The 50 percent growth is high. It's huge, but it basically corresponds to the improvements that technology is giving us,” the professor, a former AT&T Labs researcher said, adding that demand is not likely to overwhelm the Internet.
Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2008/03/13/technology/13net.html?em&ex=1205553600&en=4d97ca2365bff48c&ei=5087%0A>

34. *March 13, IDG News Service* – (International) **Password-stealing hackers infect thousands of Web pages.** Hackers looking to steal passwords used in popular online games have infected more than 10,000 Web pages in recent days. The Web attack, which appears to be a coordinated effort run out of servers in China, was first noticed by McAfee researchers on Wednesday morning. Within hours, the security company had tracked more than 10,000 Web pages infected on hundreds of Web sites. McAfee is not

sure how so many sites have been hacked, but “given how quickly some of these attacks have come on, it does seem like some automation has gone on,” said a researcher with McAfee’s Avert Labs. In the past, attackers have used search engines to scour the Internet for vulnerable Web sites and then written automated tools to flood them with attacks, which ultimately let criminals use legitimate sites to serve up their malicious code. The infected Web sites look no different than before, but the attackers have added a small bit of JavaScript code that redirects visitors’ browsers to an invisible attack launched from the China-based servers. This same technique was used a year ago, when attackers infected the Web sites of the Miami Dolphins and Dolphins Stadium just prior to the 2007 Super Bowl XLI football game. The attack code takes advantage of bugs that have already been patched, so users whose software is up-to-date are not at risk. However, McAfee warns that some of the exploits are for obscure programs such as ActiveX controls for online games, which users may not think to patch. If the code is successful, it then installs a password-stealing program on the victim’s computer that looks for passwords for a number of online games, including the Lord of the Rings Online. These online game passwords are a popular hacker target, in part because many online gaming resources can be stolen and then sold for cash.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=cybercrime_and_hacking&articleId=9068219&taxonomyId=82&intsrc=kc_to_p

35. *March 12, Associated Press* – (International) **Security card chip can be hacked.** The Dutch interior affairs minister says a technology being used in up to a billion security cards around the world can easily be hacked. The “Mifare” chip technology owned and licensed by NXP Semiconductors is frequently used in public transport systems such as London’s “Oyster” card. It is also used by corporations and governments in “swipe” access cards. Researchers at the Radboud University in Nijmegen, Netherlands have “developed a method by which a large number of (Mifare) chip-cards is relatively easy to crack and duplicate.” A Dutch politician wrote in a letter to Parliament that she was preparing supplemental security measures for some government buildings as a result. She said the chip is used in an estimated 2 million cards in the Netherlands and a billion globally — though Mifare’s Web site gives a total of 500 million, and it was not clear whether the vulnerability to hackers would apply to all versions of the chip.

Source:

http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20080312/ap_on_hi_te/techbit_netherlands_security_2

Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Website: <http://www.us-cert.gov>.

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

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Communications Sector

36. *March 12, Tech Web* – (National) **Hackers report breaking iPhone 2.0.** Hackers calling themselves the iPhone Dev. Team have reported breaking into the iPhone firmware upgrade that ships with the recently launched software development kit for the smartphone. The group reported late Tuesday it had “decrypted the disk image and jail-broken the firmware.” In essence, the hackers had found a way to run applications on the firmware without a development certificate from Apple. If true, the hack calls into question whether Apple will be able to maintain the tight-fisted control it wants on iPhone application development. Meanwhile, Apple on Wednesday reported more than 100,000 downloads of the iPhone SDK in the first four days following its launch.

Source:

http://news.yahoo.com/s/cmp/20080313/tc_cmp/206903250;_ylt=AmRIDZA.croa.jqPaZ_wuauDzdAF

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Commercial Facilities Sector

Nothing to Report

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National Monuments & Icons Sector

37. *March 13, Salt Lake Tribune* – (Utah) **New power line sought in Grand Staircase.** Garkane Energy Cooperative – which provides electricity to the southern Utah towns of Tropic, Panguitch, and others – is seeking approval to build a transmission line through the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument to help keep up with electric demands. The 138-kilovolt power line would run alongside an existing Rocky Mountain Power line through Dixie National Forest and the national monument. It would replace an old, inadequate line that now runs through Bryce Canyon National Park, said a planning engineer for Garkane. The U.S. Forest Service announced last month that it would conduct an environmental impact study on the proposed power line construction. Public meetings on the power line proposal were scheduled for Wednesday in Panguitch and tonight in Cannonville. An alternative route would be to run the power line parallel to the existing line.

Source: http://www.sltrib.com/news/ci_8554877

38. *March 13, Arizona Daily Star* – (Arizona) **Forest Service to weigh open-pit mine’s impact.** The U.S. Forest Service will look into the potential environmental and social impact of a mile-wide open-pit mine that a company proposes digging in the Santa Rita Mountains. Notice of Coronado National Forest Service supervisor’s intent to prepare an environmental impact statement on the Rosemont Copper Project will be published in the Federal Register. The vast majority of the proposed open-pit copper mine would be dug by the Rosemont Copper Co., a subsidiary of Canadian-based Augusta Resource Corp., on public land 30 miles southeast of Tucson in the Santa Rita Mountains in

southern Pima County. The 4,755-acre Rosemont Copper Project would be built on 995 acres of private land, 3,670 acres of national forest, 15 acres of land administered by the Bureau of Land Management, and 75 acres of state trust land, according to a Forest Service announcement of the impact statement.

Source: <http://www.azstarnet.com/allheadlines/229447>

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Dams Sector

39. *March 12, KBAK 29 Bakersfield* – (California) **Work starts on evacuation plans in case of Isabella Dam failure.** This week, experts started work to draw up evacuation plans in case the Isabella Dam in Kern County, California, fails. On Tuesday, a team of emergency response experts toured the dams to get a first-hand look at the conditions. The water in the lake behind the dam has been lowered as a precaution after new safety concerns were discovered in March 2006. The studies in 2006 identified more “seepage” than thought. New analysis also found concerns with the size of the spillway in the Main Dam, and new studies found previously unknown earthquake faults running under and near the dams. The earth-filled structures were built in 1953 for flood control and water management.

Source: <http://www.eyefoutforyou.com/news/local/16628866.html>

40. *March 12, Vernon Broadcaster* – (Wisconsin) **County officials seek Feingold’s help with dam repairs.** A number of Vernon County, Wisconsin, officials appealed Saturday for federal help to repair the county’s 22 flood control dams. Vernon County’s Land and Water Conservation Department dam project manager told the senator that the county is in need of \$9.9 million to repair dams that have suffered due to age and most notably the floods of 2007. He said that all of the county’s flood control structures are in need of repair but added that four with the most need are “high-hazard structures.”

Source: <http://www.vernonbroadcaster.com/articles/2008/03/12/news/03story.txt>

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